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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

SHOULD PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES BE BANNED?

What's YOUR opinion? Say what you think in our big debate! **p8**





This week's big news



Salt Lake City 2034



The Winter Olympic Games will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2034, the International Olympic Committee announced on July 24. Salt Lake City (shown above) hosted the Games in 2002, and several of the venues from that year will be used again. It will be the fifth Winter Games held in the US.

Olympic ceremony opens Games

On July 26, the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics took place under rainy skies in France's capital city. In the first ceremony to open the Olympics ever held outside a stadium, about 10,500 athletes representing 205 nations rode in boats along the Seine River. About 600,000 people watched in person and 28.6 million people watched on television or online.

What was the Parade of Nations?

The four-hour event began with the Parade of Nations, featuring nearly 100 boats carrying athletes along a 3.7-mile route on the Seine. Greece's athletes went first, in keeping with tradition, because the Olympics originated in Greece. Basketball player Giannis Antetokounmpo carried the Greek flag. Next was the Refugee Team, made up of athletes who were forced from their home countries due to war or other conflict. The remaining countries followed in alphabetical order, except for France, which came last because it is the host country.



Coco Gauff and LeBron James carry the flag for Team USA.

at Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Louvre Museum. Musical performers included Lady Gaga, French-Malian pop star Aya Nakamura, and French heavy metal band Gojira. French Canadian superstar Celine Dion sang at the parade's end point, at the Eiffel Tower. To close the ceremony, famous French Olympians Teddy Riner and Marie-José Pérec took the Olympic torch, which had been carried across the nation by 11,000 torchbearers, to the Tuileries Garden. There, they lit the Olympic cauldron, which has a 100% electric flame for the first time in Olympic history and will burn throughout the Games. In a special innovation this year, the cauldron is attached to a hot-air balloon that sits on the ground during the day and is raised at night into the sky, where it is visible across the city.

Who represented the US?

The US sent 592 athletes (314 women and 278 men) to the Olympics this year, the most of any country. These include tennis star Coco Gauff and basketball player LeBron James, the two athletes chosen to carry the American flag during the Parade of Nations. First Lady Jill Biden also attended. Former US Olympians who are attending the Games include

swimmer Michael Phelps, tennis icon Serena Williams, snowboarder Shaun White, track and field star Carl Lewis, and skier Lindsey Vonn.

What happened before the ceremony?

About 800,000 travelers faced delays getting to the Olympics due to a disruption on France's high-speed rail system. In the early hours of July 26, a series of fires was intentionally set at train facilities around the outskirts of the city. No one was injured. The opening ceremony was not affected, and service was fully restored by July 29. At that time, no suspects had been identified and no arrests had been made.

What will happen next?

Security is already tight around Paris, but French authorities said they would increase it on the railways. Some of the first events were held the day after the opening ceremony, including cycling, men's skateboarding, women's diving, and men's and women's 400-meter freestyle swimming. When *The Week Junior* went to press on July 30, the US had won 25 medals, including four gold, 10 silver, and 11 bronze. (For more results, see "First medals awarded at Paris Olympics" on page 18.) The Games will end with the closing ceremony on August 11.



Teens win global math contest

Six teenagers from the US have earned first place at the 65th Annual International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). The event, which was held in the UK this year, is considered the world's most prestigious math competition for high school students. The US beat China, last year's winner, by a score of 192 to 190.

The US team included Jessica Wan, age 18, from Florida, who was the first female competitor since 2007. She and teammate Alexander Wang, age 16, from New Jersey, were also among the top five individuals at the competition. The other team members, ranging in age from 16 to 18, were from Connecticut, Illinois, and California. Overall, 609 students from 108 countries competed this year.

The IMO launched in 1959. The US first competed in 1975 and finished in second place. Students qualify by participating in smaller competitions organized by the Mathematical Association of America throughout the school year. Every year, about 300,000 students from more than 6,000 schools compete in those events.



The winning team



Sunita Williams (left) and Butch Wilmore

WOW!
From 2022–2023, NASA astronaut Frank Rubio spent 371 days straight on the ISS, the longest single spaceflight by an American.

Astronauts' return is delayed

Two astronauts who are living on the International Space Station (ISS) and were scheduled to return to Earth in mid-June will remain on the ISS for the time being, NASA (the US space agency) announced. The return of Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore is delayed due to problems with their spacecraft, Starliner.

Starliner, which was built by the private company Boeing, launched on June 5. It was Starliner's first flight with a crew aboard and third flight overall. The first flight failed to reach the ISS, and the second reached it without a crew in 2022.

Starliner docked at the ISS on June 6, and Williams and Wilmore were set to stay for about a week. During the flight, however, Starliner leaked helium gas and had problems with its thrusters,

which it uses to re-enter Earth's atmosphere. NASA experts are working to assess and fix these issues. They test-fired the thrusters in space and are also experimenting with a spare thruster on Earth. This will help them learn more about the problematic thrusters on Starliner.

Starliner has enough battery life to stay in space through early September. If Williams and Wilmore cannot eventually return to Earth on it, they could travel on another vehicle, like SpaceX's Dragon capsule. "NASA always has contingency options," said NASA official Steve Stich.

During their time aboard the ISS, Williams and Wilmore have been conducting scientific research. Wilmore said they are "absolutely confident" they will be able to return to Earth on Starliner.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

CELEBRATING A BIG DAY

Elizabeth Francis, the oldest person in the US and fourth oldest in the world, celebrated her 115th birthday on July 25 at her home in Texas. "She's led a simple life and has always stayed busy with her family," her granddaughter said.



Elizabeth Francis

A WELCOME ADDITION

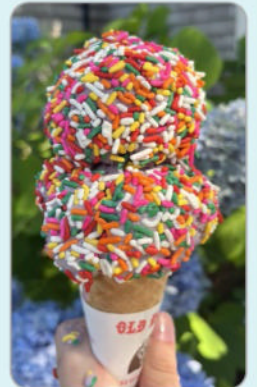
The Mattel toy company has released a blind Barbie doll, which comes with a cane, sunglasses, and textured clothing to help children who are blind or have low vision tell the items apart. One mother in South Carolina said her 8-year-old daughter who is blind was "overwhelmed with excitement" to have "a Barbie of her own."



The new doll

A TASTY TRAIL

Massachusetts has released a new "ice cream trail" map highlighting more than 100 scoop shops, beach shacks, old-time parlors, and farm stands serving ice cream across the state. Each spot (shown at right: a cone from Sundae School on Cape Cod) uses local milk from one of the state's 95 dairy farms.





National news

TAKING ACTION

In 2022, California became the first state to provide free school meals to all children, regardless of need.



An encampment in San Diego, California

How you can help



Every community has individuals and families in need. If you'd like to get involved, ask a parent to help you identify a local organization and find out what it needs. You might be able to host a food or clothing drive in your neighborhood, for example, or volunteer to sort donated items before they are distributed.

California ordered to clear encampments

Gov. Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, has ordered the removal of homeless encampments from state property. Encampments are sites where people experiencing homelessness live, often in tents. The largest population of unhoused people in the US—about 180,000 of the estimated nationwide total of 653,000—live in California, according to a 2023 report.

What happened?

Newsom issued an executive order (similar to a law) that directed, but didn't require, state agencies to remove encampments and to support and assist the people living in them. His order encourages local governments to use state funds to carry out the order, starting with encampments that present a danger to people living in or near

them. Newsom made the announcement after the US Supreme Court (the nation's highest court of law) ruled in June that cities and states can enforce bans on sleeping outside in public areas.

What was the Supreme Court decision?

The Supreme Court ruled 6–3 in favor of the city of Grants Pass, Oregon, which had issued fines to people for sleeping outside in public spaces. Lawyers for homeless residents who challenged the law argued that it subjects people to "cruel and unusual punishment," a violation of the Constitution (highest US law). The court rejected that argument, clearing the way for cities to create regulations that penalize people for sleeping in parks and streets, even when the cities are not able to provide shelter indoors.

How did people react?

Some California officials welcomed the order. "I want the tents away from the residential areas and the shopping centers and the freeways," said R. Rex Parris, the mayor of Lancaster. Michael Weinstein, a human rights advocate, criticized the policy. People experiencing homelessness have nowhere to go, he said. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass was skeptical that the plan would reduce homelessness and said other steps, such as providing healthcare and counseling, would be more effective.

What will happen next?

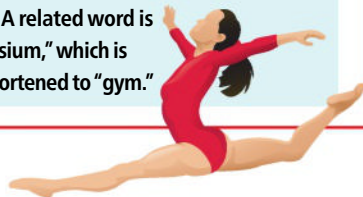
Newsom's office said state workers will provide notice before an encampment is removed. Those affected will be offered support services and can have their property safely stored.



WORD OF THE WEEK

GYMNAST

The words "gymnast" and "gymnastics" have unexpected beginnings. Ancient Greek men would exercise naked as a sign of discipline. Their word *gymnazein* meant to "train naked." A "gymnast" was, therefore, a person who trained without clothes. A related word is "gymnasium," which is often shortened to "gym."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 8, 1992

The "Dream Team" wins Olympic gold

On August 8, 1992, the US men's basketball team defeated Croatia at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, to win the gold medal. The US team, known as the "Dream Team," was made up of legendary players including Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls and Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers. This was the first time the Olympics allowed pro basketball players to compete in the Games.



Players on the Dream Team



President Joe Biden

Biden addresses the nation

On July 24, President Joe Biden spoke to the US for the first time since withdrawing from the Presidential campaign. From the White House, Biden said that although he believed his record “merited a second term,” the best way to “unite our nation” is to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee. He outlined his priorities for his term’s final months, including lowering costs for families and protecting the environment.



Surprise eruption at Yellowstone

An unexpected eruption at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming sent boiling water, steam, and rocks high into the air on July 23. Experts said it was a hydrothermal eruption, which is caused when enough hot water underground turns into steam. No visitors at the site were injured, but Biscuit Basin, the area where it occurred, has been closed for the rest of the year as a safety precaution.



A scene from the film

Inside Out 2 sets new record

The movie *Inside Out 2*, a sequel to the 2015 release *Inside Out*, has become the highest-earning animated film ever, unseating *Frozen II* from the top spot. Six weeks after *Inside Out 2* opened in theaters, it had made \$1.46 billion, surpassing the \$1.45 billion earned by *Frozen II* in 2019. The film tells the story of Riley, a teenager, and the emotions living in her head.



Sheila Jackson Lee in 2021

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2021, Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday to be established in 38 years.

Member of Congress is remembered

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat from Texas who championed racial justice and equality as a member of the US Congress, died on July 19 at age 74. In June, she had announced that she had pancreatic cancer.

One of Jackson Lee’s major accomplishments was being the author and lead sponsor of the legislation in 2021 that established Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, marks the day in 1865 when the last people who were enslaved in Texas learned of their freedom and slavery ended in the US.

Jackson Lee was born on January 12, 1950, in Queens, New York. While she was growing up, she didn’t plan to go into politics. But she changed her mind after Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in 1968 while she was in high school.

After graduating from Yale University with a political science degree and earning her law degree from the University of Virginia, Jackson Lee

moved to Houston, Texas, with her husband, Elwyn Cornelius Lee. She practiced law there for 12 years before becoming a judge in 1987.

She began her political career in 1990 by serving on Houston’s City Council. In 1994, she was elected to represent Texas’ 18th district in the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, which makes laws), a position she held for nearly 30 years. She was known for advocating

for civil rights and increasing access to healthcare and education. In

2021, she became the first woman to chair the House Judiciary Committee’s crime subcommittee.

Following the news of her death, Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic leader of the House, praised Jackson Lee’s “fierce determination” and “legacy of leadership.” In an

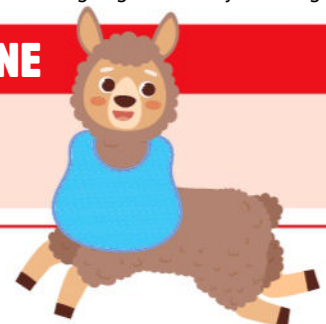
interview with *The New York Times* in 1999, Jackson Lee said, “I need to make a difference. I don’t have wealth to write a check. But maybe I can be a voice arguing consistently for change.”



Services for Sheila Jackson Lee were held at City Hall in Houston, Texas.

THE WEEK’S SILLIEST HEADLINE

“Llama escapes Maine property to avoid dental exam” *UPI*





Around the world



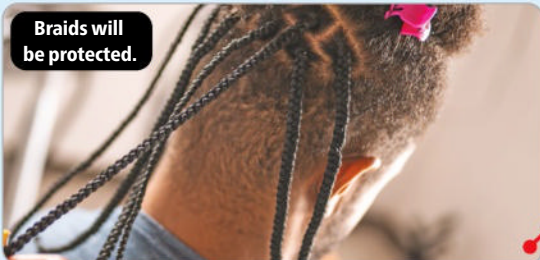
Protesters at Schiphol Airport



The Netherlands

Climate protests at major airports

At two Dutch airports on July 27, environmental activists staged protests against the use of fossil fuels, which contribute to climate change. Advocacy groups organized similar protests across Europe this week, including in Switzerland, Spain, and the UK. Some activists glued themselves to a runway at Germany's Cologne-Bonn airport, causing flight delays. Others blocked a check-in lane in Norway and security gates in Finland.



Braids will be protected.



San Juan, Puerto Rico

Law bans hair discrimination

On July 24, a law was passed that bans discrimination against people wearing hairstyles including Afros, curls, locs, twists, and braids. Puerto Rico's population of 3.2 million people is racially diverse, and some people say they have faced unfair treatment for wearing their hair in these traditional styles. Supporters celebrated the new law, which is expected to provide protection in schools, workplaces, housing, and public services.



Nicolás Maduro



Venezuela

Election result announced

A presidential election took place in Venezuela on July 28. Nicolás Maduro, who has been president for 11 years, was announced as the winner. However, pre-election surveys had suggested rival candidate Edmundo González Urrutia would win, and some people think the election was not run in a fair way. World leaders called for all voting records to be released.



United Kingdom

Words added to dictionary

The Cambridge Dictionary announced that it has added more than 3,200 new words and phrases in 2024. One of the new words is "boop," defined as a gentle touch on a person's or animal's nose or head. Other additions include "the ick" (a sudden feeling that you dislike someone or something) and the acronym "IYKYK" (if you know you know).



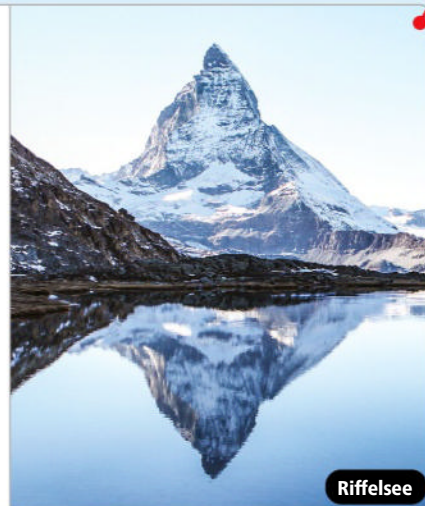
A "boop"



Switzerland

Protecting plants

Swiss authorities are taking new measures to stop tourists from crushing flowers as they attempt to snap the perfect picture of Riffelsee, a lake located high in the Alps mountains. Switzerland's national flower, edelweiss, usually thrives in the area, but it has not been seen there for years. Authorities have now planted new flowers and put up fences to keep people from trampling the plants as they walk toward the lake.



Riffelsee

GETTY IMAGES (8); SHUTTERSTOCK; REGIONAL SPIEGEL



Chapo is now free.



Saxony, Germany Lynx released into forest

A Carpathian lynx named Chapo has been released from a breeding program created to increase the population of his species. He tried repeatedly to leave his enclosure, so wildlife experts decided it would be best to set him free. The 1-year-old wildcat was fitted with a location-tracking collar and released into a forest in Saxony.



A mudslide



Ethiopia Search for natural disaster survivors

Rescuers have been working to save victims of mudslides caused by heavy rain in southwestern Ethiopia. Mudslides are common during the country's rainy season, which runs from July to September. Authorities said more than 250 people have died in the disaster and many more are missing. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed declared three days of national mourning from July 27–29 to remember the people who died.



The ceremony



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia New king officially crowned

Malaysia's 17th king has been crowned at an official coronation event at the National Palace, after having been sworn into the role in January. Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar will be king for the next five years in keeping with Malaysia's rotating monarchy system. The country has nine royal families from different states, and the heads of the families take turns ruling for five-year terms.



Coast guard responders at work



Manila, Philippines Oil spill cleanup effort begins

A ship sank in Manila Bay on July 25, after a typhoon (tropical storm) brought high winds and rain. The MT Terra Nova tanker was carrying nearly 370,000 gallons of industrial fuel oil, which began leaking into the water, spreading several miles. When *The Week Junior* went to press, the coast guard had sealed most of the leaking fuel valves and was working to clean up the spill.



Dubbo, Australia Platypus research

The world's largest platypus conservation center has welcomed its first four guests. Platypus Rescue HQ, located at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, is designed to be similar to a natural habitat. It has pools, waterfalls, streams, and banks of earth for the creatures to burrow into. Researchers will focus on attempting to increase the number of platypuses while also learning more about the animals and how they reproduce.



A platypus



The big debate

Should we get rid of plastic water bottles?

They're convenient, but they also cause harm to the environment.

What you need to know

- Plastic water bottles are single-use plastics, which means they're used once and then thrown out or recycled.
- About 83% of plastic water bottles aren't recycled. It takes about 450 years for a bottle to break down.
- Each day in the US, about 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills. That's about 38 billion per year.
- Globally, more than 2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. Bottled water is an important resource for them.



THIRSTY HISTORY

Water was first bottled as long ago as the 1600s in the UK, then transported throughout Europe.

In the 1970s, US beverage companies started selling drinks in plastic bottles, and the light, convenient products were a huge hit. By 2023, bottled water was bringing in \$5.3 billion a year. As sales went up, however, so did the number of plastic bottles in landfills. Today, plastic drink bottles and their caps are among the top trash items in the ocean. Bans are being enacted in some places like New York state universities, which are phasing out all plastic water bottles by 2027. In Massachusetts, bottled beverages under 21 ounces are banned. But bottled water is still a necessity for some people. What do you think? Should we get rid of plastic water bottles?

Yes—they cause so much harm

Our planet needs help, and getting rid of single-use plastic water bottles would cut huge amounts of waste. It would also put a stop to the pollution that's generated during the bottle manufacturing process, which contributes to climate change. In addition, plastic water bottles break down into tiny particles, called microplastics, that spread through the oceans, air, and bodies of animals and people, causing health problems. The easiest solution would be for everyone to purchase a reusable bottle, which doesn't cost much more than a single-use bottle of water these days. People could stay hydrated and help the planet.

No—a ban wouldn't be fair

Plastic water bottles serve a vital purpose for the billions of people who don't have access to clean water. They rely on bottled water to eat, drink, and cook. Until that problem is solved, it's not right to have a total ban on plastic water bottles. Reusable water bottles sound good—but what if people forget theirs when they run out the door to go somewhere? If they can't buy a bottle of water that day, are they supposed to just go thirsty? Plus, there's the health factor. Making water convenient to drink means people will consume more of it, which is good for them. And they'll be less likely to buy sugary or artificially sweetened drinks instead.

YES

Three reasons why we should get rid of plastic water bottles

- 1 It would help the planet by reducing waste and cutting back on pollution that contributes to climate change.
- 2 Plastic bottles contain tiny bits of plastics that get released into our oceans, air, and bodies, causing health problems.
- 3 Reusable water bottles are just as convenient and better for the Earth.

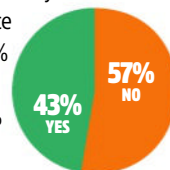
NO

Three reasons why we should not get rid of plastic water bottles

- 1 Until everyone has access to clean water, it's not right to totally ban plastic bottles.
- 2 It's not realistic to expect people to always carry a reusable bottle. Sometimes you just have to buy water.
- 3 Without the convenience of plastic bottles, people will drink less water or turn to unhealthy drinks instead.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if private citizens should go to space. More than half of you voted against space tourism: 57% of you said no, and 43% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think we should get rid of plastic water bottles or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

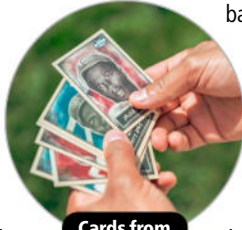


Artist honors history

Former ballplayer Micah Johnson returns to his sport with his latest work.

Micah Johnson, a former Major League Baseball (MLB) player who is now an artist, connected his two passions on a recent project. With the trading card company Topps, he designed a special series of cards called the 2024 MLB Negro Leagues Collection. They pay tribute to baseball's Negro Leagues, which were established in the 1920s, when Black players were excluded from the MLB due to racism.

Johnson, age 33, was born in Indianapolis and played baseball at Indiana University before joining the Minor League team affiliated with the Chicago White Sox in 2012. Known for his speed, he stole 84 bases in a single season and made his MLB debut in 2015. Throughout his career, he played for the White Sox, the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the Atlanta Braves.



Cards from the set

Johnson retired in 2017 to pursue art. He taught himself to paint by watching online videos. He specializes in painted portraits and digital art, and his work has been shown in exhibitions across the US.

Johnson told MLB.com that because baseball taught him to be comfortable with failure, he is "not afraid to fail and try new things on the canvas" when it comes to his art.

In May, MLB integrated Negro Leagues statistics into its official records, prompting Topps to honor legendary players such as Jackie Robinson and Monte Irvin. Johnson's designs are portraits that include details from the players' personal lives. He was excited by the project and told *The New York Times*, "Hopefully it leads people to linger over the artwork and inspires them to learn more about these players."



Micah Johnson

DID YOU KNOW?
The first Negro League player to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame was Satchel Paige in 1971.

A gift for education

Former New York City mayor and business executive Mike Bloomberg has donated \$1 billion to Johns Hopkins University, where he attended college. It will give medical students from families who earn less than \$300,000 a year tuition-free attendance starting this fall. Inspired by the scholarships he received, Bloomberg aims to address the high cost and demand for healthcare education in the US. "By reducing the financial barriers," he said, "we can free more students to pursue careers they're passionate about."



Mike Bloomberg



Demi Johnson

Supporting sea life

Demi Johnson, a ninth grader from Mississippi, was named a 2024 Significant Achievement Award Recipient by the National Geographic Society for her work aiding oyster habitats in Gulf waters. Her interest in oyster restoration started as a Girl Scout community project. Johnson cares for oysters in submerged cages off a local pier and releases them once they are mature and can form new oyster reefs, which benefits the environment because oysters filter ocean pollution. In two years, she's nurtured more than 1,000 oysters, which are expected to spawn millions more in the future.

OVERHEARD

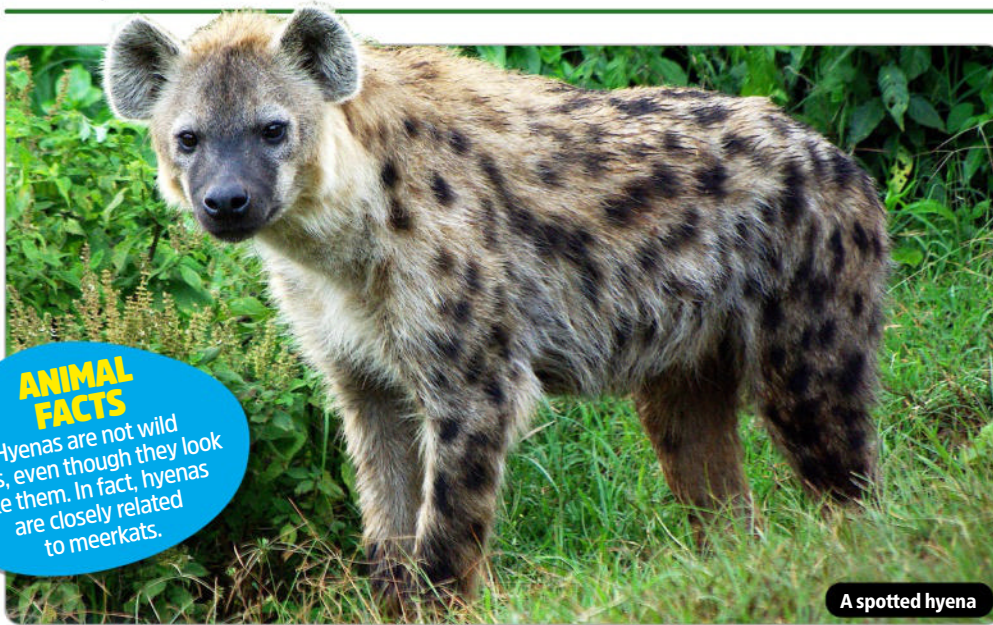


"A lot of people probably thought, 'When is she going to give this thing up?' But I never had that feeling."

Award-winning country singer Lainey Wilson, age 32, on her years of perseverance in the music industry



Animals and the environment



A spotted hyena

ANIMAL FACTS

Hyenas are not wild dogs, even though they look like them. In fact, hyenas are closely related to meerkats.

The city that loves hyenas

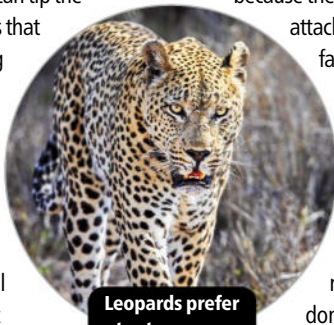
People in Harar, Ethiopia, don't just accept the presence of hyenas—they encourage it. Hyenas visit the city at night to “clean up” the streets by eating garbage and scraps, and many locals believe the animals protect them from evil spirits. Tourists can even pay to join in with hyena feeding time (below).



Hyenas thrive in areas near humans

Leopards and hyenas are competitors when it comes to finding food in East Africa. Usually leopards have the advantage, but a new study found that people living nearby can tip the balance toward hyenas. It seems that hyenas are far better at adapting to the presence of people.

Researchers from the University of Copenhagen, in Denmark, studied the behavior of spotted hyenas and leopards living in Udzungwa Mountains National Park, a protected area of about 770 square miles in Tanzania. The team used camera traps, which take pictures when they sense movement, to observe the relationship between the two mammal species.



Leopards prefer to stay away.

Udzungwa Mountains National Park is surrounded by farmland and human homes. People living in the area don't like leopards because they hunt farm animals and can attack humans. For this reason, some farmers attack leopards, which has caused the animals to retreat as far from people as possible.

By contrast, hyenas only eat farm animals that are sick or dead, so they are less of a problem for humans. The result is that hyenas are now dominating areas near towns and villages, where most local prey animals also live. Greater access to prey has led to a shift in the balance of power between the two species. Hyenas “may even exploit humans

as shields against the leopards,” said lead study author Rasmus W. Havmøller.

Male leopards are bigger and stronger than hyenas, but female leopards are smaller. This means fights with hyenas are more risky for female leopards. To avoid fighting with hyenas over prey, the female leopards have become diurnal (active during the day) because hyenas are mainly nocturnal (active at night).

Overall, the presence of humans seems to be having a negative impact on the leopards, whereas the hyenas seem to be thriving. Havmøller said he hopes this study will encourage people to consider how they may affect wildlife in areas shared by multiple species. In the future, he said, changes in wilderness areas should be made slowly in order to give animals a chance to adapt.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

The Shenandoah Valley, in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park, is part of the 1,200-mile Great Appalachian Valley. The Blue Ridge Mountains border one side of the valley, the Allegheny Mountains line the other, and the Shenandoah River runs through the middle. Popular activities include camping and hiking the trails that wind through the valley and along the river. The valley is home to scarlet tanagers, woodpeckers, butterflies, turtles, deer, and salamanders. Goldenrods and sunflowers are among the many wildflower species in the area.



A buckeye butterfly



WOW!

About 23,000 species of plants and animals can be found in the state of Hawaii.



The activists after the settlement

Young people win climate case

A group of young climate activists have reached a legal settlement with the state of Hawaii. This agreement, which has been called "groundbreaking," will force the state to take environmental action.

A group of 13 people, ages 9 to 18, started the court case in June 2022. They said the state had harmed their ability to "live healthful lives in Hawaii" by carrying out projects that are harmful to the environment (such as expanding highways) and failing to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming.

The court agreed with the activists.

Hawaiian officials must now come up with a plan to achieve zero emissions for all state transportation, meaning that no greenhouse gases will be released into the atmosphere, by 2045. This could be achieved by burning less coal, oil, and gas, for example, and planting trees to absorb gases from the air.

Hawaii's director of transportation, Ed Sniffen, said, "This is going to make sure we move forward much faster" to reach climate goals. Lucina, a 17-year-old activist, said the ruling had brought her hope.

Animal of the week

Tuna crab

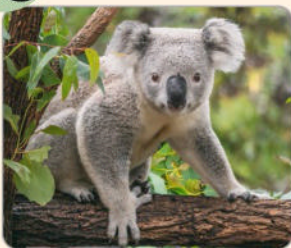


Huge numbers of tuna crabs have been gathering off the coast of Southern California and washing up on beaches. Experts think they left their habitat farther south because of warmer seas, probably due to a weather pattern called El Niño.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 3 years
- **HABITAT:** The seabed near Baja California, Mexico
- **SIZE:** About 1 to 3 inches long
- **DIET:** Mostly plankton and other tiny organisms
- **FUN FACT:** Despite their name, tuna crabs are actually a species of squat lobster.

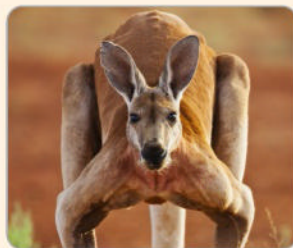


Good week / Bad week



Koalas

The Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Australia will no longer offer "koala hold experiences" after studies showed they caused stress to the animals. Instead, visitors will be allowed to watch koalas sleeping and eating without touching them.



Kangaroos

At least 85 eastern gray kangaroos were found dead in the Australian state of Victoria. Officials believe the animals were killed illegally by humans. Two joeys (young kangaroos) were rescued and brought to a local shelter.

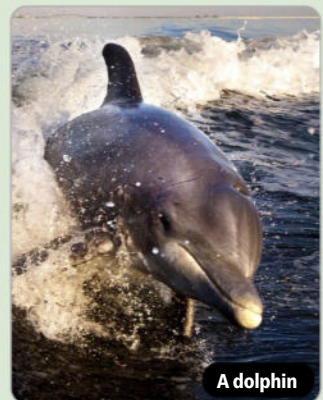


"How do hurricanes affect ocean animals?" Asher, 9, Washington, DC

Catherine Macdonald

Shark research and conservation director, University of Miami

When changes in temperature, air pressure, wind, and waves warn that a storm is coming, animals must decide whether to move or seek shelter. Small sharks and some larger ones usually leave. Others don't seem bothered. It can be a chance for dolphins and sharks to snack on escaping prey!



A dolphin

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Learn about the Shark Research & Conservation Program at sharkresearch.earth.miami.edu.



All about chocolate chip cookies

The sweet history of

On August 4, the US marks National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day.

The chocolate chip cookie has been beloved by children and adults for decades. Let's find out how this treat became an American favorite.

Making a masterpiece



Ruth Wakefield

From 1930 to 1967, Ruth Wakefield and her husband, Kenneth, ran the Toll House Inn, a restaurant in Whitman, Massachusetts. Wakefield, who had a college degree in household arts, enjoyed

experimenting with baking. She is credited with creating the chocolate chip cookie, but no one is sure how she came up with the recipe. One theory is that while making drop cookies she ran out of baker's chocolate and improvised by chopping up a semi-sweet chocolate bar and adding it to the dough. Instead of melting, the chocolate bits held their shape. The cookies were a hit with inn visitors. Wakefield included the recipe in the 1938 edition of her cookbook *Toll House Tried and True Recipes*.



Vintage cookie tins

A questionable deal

By the late 1930s, Marjorie Husted, who was also known as Betty Crocker, hosted a radio program for home cooks. She introduced Wakefield's cookbooks and her chocolate chip cookie to a national audience. At about this time, the food company Nestlé experienced an increase in chocolate sales thanks to Wakefield's recipe. In 1939, Wakefield and Nestlé reached an agreement. She gave the company the rights to use her recipe and the Toll House name. In return, Nestlé promised her \$1 and a lifetime supply of chocolate. Nestlé began to print her recipe on its packaging and soon launched Toll House Morsels.



MIGHTY MOUTHFUL
The largest chocolate chip cookie, baked in 2003, measured 101 feet wide and weighed 40,000 pounds.

DID YOU KNOW?
The chocolate chip cookie is the official state cookie of Massachusetts.

More than one third of people in the US say chocolate chip is their favorite cookie.

More famous cookie classics

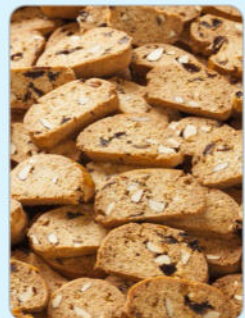
Argentina's alfajores

This popular sandwich cookie was originally stuffed with fruit. Today, it's filled with dulce de leche and sprinkled with powdered sugar.



Morocco's fekkas

The classic version of this twice-baked cookie, similar to Italian biscotti, features raisins and almonds. It can also be made with other nuts, including pistachios, and seeds such as sesame or anise.





a classic treat



FUN FACT
The first chocolate chip cookies were about the size of a quarter.



Growing in popularity

As the US endured the Great Depression (1929–1939), a time of hardship for many Americans, the chocolate chip cookie represented an inexpensive yet delicious handheld treat. During World War II (1939–1945), people across the US sent care packages of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies to soldiers who were serving overseas. In the 1950s, Pillsbury and other brands began selling refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough in supermarkets, which enabled people to more easily bake cookies at home. The food company Nabisco launched *Chips Ahoy!*, a line of packaged chocolate chip cookies, in 1963.



A classic endures

Cookie Monster, a cuddly Muppet whose favorite food is the chocolate chip cookie, made his first appearance on *Sesame Street* in 1969. In Los Angeles, California, in 1975, Wally Amos opened his first Famous Amos cookie stand. The brand Ben & Jerry's introduced chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream in 1984, after a customer at its Burlington, Vermont, store left a note proposing the new flavor. By the mid-1980s, more than 1,200 cookie stores and stands, such as Mrs. Fields, were in business across America. Today, about 7 billion chocolate chip cookies, which came to be a symbol of comfort and home, are eaten in the US every year. For an original recipe from an editor at *The Week Junior*, turn to page 25.

Poland's *kolaczki*

These flaky traditional pastries, made from cream cheese and butter, are wrapped around sweet or tart fruit jams, such as raspberry, blueberry, or apricot, then dusted with powdered sugar.



India's *nankhatai*

These shortbread cookies, made from a mixture of flour, ghee, cardamom, and sugar, are found in almost every bakery and grocery store in India. They are often garnished with nuts.





New insights into facial expressions

A new study found that people who use a lot of facial expressions are seen as more likable and can also be better at negotiating (discussing something to try to reach an agreement). Facial expressions reveal people's emotions and help them communicate in a nonverbal way (without spoken words).

Researchers at Nottingham Trent University in the UK used software called the Facial Action Coding System (FACS) to analyze more than 1,500 conversations between people. FACS tracks people's facial muscles and calculates how expressive their faces are.

First, the scientists set up a series of video calls and recorded people's natural reactions and expressions in different situations. People on the calls used a range of facial expressions, including ones that showed they were listening, found something funny, felt embarrassed, or sensed conflict with the other person.

The researchers also showed 170 participants videos of people making different facial expressions, from looking friendly to looking threatening or like they were disagreeing with

someone. The participants then had to rate the likability of the people in the videos.

Next, the team of scientists recorded a series of video conversations between 1,456 strangers and analyzed their expressions. On average, people made 71 individual facial movements per minute during the conversations. Afterward, the people who had been talking to each other had to rate how much they liked each other. The results showed that those with more expressive faces were better liked by their conversation partners.

During the video conversations, participants were also given a situation in which they had to negotiate a deal. People who were more expressive generally got a better result. The team said this is likely because people who use many facial expressions seem friendlier and easier to read, which makes them better at connecting with others.

Bridget Waller, lead author of the study, said it "may explain why humans have developed more complex facial expressions than any other species—it helps us to create stronger bonds and better navigate the social world."



What does this expression show?

Advances in robot faces



When two people are talking and one of them smiles, the other person usually smiles back at the same time. That's because people sense when someone else is going to smile before they do it, so they mirror the expression. This nonverbal communication is natural and puts people at ease. Scientists are working to give robots the same ability, in order to improve their interactions with humans.

A team at Columbia University in New York City built a robot named Emo, which has sensors and cameras that track small changes in a person's face. If Emo senses the person is about to smile, it smiles back at the same time. It also makes eye contact. The team said this feels more natural for the person and helps build trust between them and Emo.



SpaceX will help NASA remove the ISS in 2030

The company SpaceX has been selected to help remove the International Space Station (ISS) from orbit in 2030. The ISS is a floating laboratory run by NASA (the US space agency) and the Canadian, European, Japanese, and Russian space agencies. It has been in orbit since 2000 and was expected to last 30 years.

As the ISS nears the end of its functional life, NASA and the other agencies have weighed several options for “de-orbiting” it. They considered boosting the ISS to a higher orbit or taking it apart in space and returning it to Earth. The agencies decided that the most practical option was to deposit the remains of the facility in a remote part of the ocean, which has not yet been determined.

To do this, they needed a specially designed spacecraft that is capable of taking control of the ISS, removing it from orbit, and guiding it toward its intended landing site. SpaceX will develop and build this spacecraft, and

NASA will run the operation. The spacecraft and the ISS are expected to break apart as they re-enter Earth’s atmosphere.

NASA has been working with SpaceX for years on missions related to the ISS. In 2012, SpaceX’s Dragon became the first commercial spacecraft to successfully reach the ISS, and since 2020, the company has carried several crews of astronauts to the ISS. The spacecraft that will de-orbit the ISS is expected to cost about \$843 million to build.

YEARS OF SERVICE
The International Space Station has been continuously inhabited by astronauts since November 2, 2000.



The ISS is in orbit 254 miles from Earth.



The statue was found lying on its side.

Ancient statue found in Roman sewer

A statue of the Greek god Hermes was found in an ancient sewer in Bulgaria, where it had been for about 1,600 years. The marble figure was uncovered by archaeologists (scientists who study objects from long ago) digging where the city of Heraclea Sintica, which was part of the Roman empire, stood from about 356 BCE to 500 AD.

The statue was about six and a half feet tall. It was likely buried in about the year 380, when the

Romans adopted Christianity and banned the worship of mythical gods, like Hermes. Some people still believed in the gods, however, and may have buried the statue to hide and protect it because it was important to them.

The figure was well preserved, likely because it was carefully laid down and covered with soil. “Such huge statues are very rarely found,” Lyudmil Vagalinski, director of the excavation, told *The New York Times*. “It’s a miracle that it survived.”



An inflatable shelter for camping



The Air Station POD-01

Camper can get comfortable in a portable, inflatable structure that goes up in minutes. The Air Station POD-01 holds up to four people. Its frame is formed with inflatable tubes that become strong and supportive as soon as they’re filled with air.

The Air Station POD-01 offers about 45 square feet of space. Its walls are 5 feet high with large screened openings to provide airflow and let campers take in the view. When it’s deflated, the house folds down into a carry bag and weighs just under 19 pounds.



Photos of the week

2024
AUDUBON
PHOTOGRAPHY
AWARDS
FINALISTS



Winging it

A wild turkey crosses the tracks in this photo taken by Travis Potter in Minnesota.



Stopping by

This photo of a sedge wren in Canada was taken by Trisha Snider.



PARHAM POURAHMAD; LINDA J. SCHER; MATTHEW MALWITZ; KEVIN LOHMAN; TRISHA SNIDER; TRAVIS POTTER



Beak to beak

This picture of blackburnian warblers in Pennsylvania was shot by Mathew Malwitz.



Snack break

Linda Scher took this photo of a black-capped chickadee gathering seeds in Minnesota.



Topsy turvy

Kevin Lohman captured this photograph of a Forster's tern in California.



Got your back

Two American kestrels in California perch on a fence in this image by Parham Pourahmad.



Sports



SHINING STARS

The leotards for Team USA's women's gymnastics teams are covered with 10,000 crystals, more than they've ever had.

The US men's gymnastics team with their bronze medals

A meaningful number



Since the 1984 Olympics, nine basketball stars who wore the number 9 for the US men's and women's teams have become Hall of Famers or are expected to make it into the hall in the future. This year, the players wearing it are A'ja Wilson (above) and Tyrese Haliburton.

First medals awarded at Paris Olympics

The Olympics in Paris, France, are underway, and the first medals were handed out in the 10-meter air rifle mixed team event on July 27. The gold went to Yuting Huang and Lihao Sheng of China. The same day, host country France won its first gold of the Games with a major upset in men's rugby sevens. They defeated Fiji, the two-time defending Olympic champions.

Team USA's first medal winners were Sarah Bacon and Cassidy Cook, who earned the silver in women's 3-meter springboard synchronized diving. In swimming, the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay team earned the US its first gold. One member of the team was veteran Caeleb Dressel, who came into the Games

with the distinction of having won only gold medals at past Olympics. It was the eighth of his career.

The next day, swimmer Torri Huske became the first American to earn an individual gold in Paris by winning the women's 100-meter butterfly final. Team USA's Gretchen Walsh took the silver. The win was extra special for Huske, who missed the podium at the last Olympics by 0.01 seconds. Other US medalists include fencer Lee Kiefer, who won gold in the women's individual foil event,

and mountain biker Haley Batten, whose silver was Team USA's best-ever Olympics finish in her sport. Two US skateboarders medaled in the men's street final on July 29: Jagger Eaton won

silver and Nyjah Huston won bronze. Yuto Horigome of Japan won that event's gold.

US gymnasts earned medals in both the men's and women's team competitions. A US men's team had not won an Olympic medal since 2008. They clinched the bronze, thanks in part to a strong performance by their final competitor, Steven Nedorosick on the pommel horse. Japan won gold and China took silver. The next day, the US women, who won silver at the last Olympics, dominated the competition and won gold. US star Simone Biles now has the most Olympic medals of any US gymnast. Italy took silver—their first team medal in 96 years—and Brazil won bronze.

In another historic moment, the US women's rugby sevens team won bronze, which was their first-ever Olympic medal in the sport.

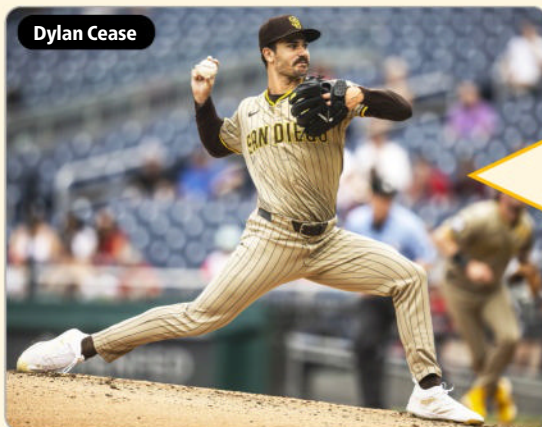


Torri Huske

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

CLUB SOCCER

On July 28, McKenna "Mak" Whitham, age 14, made her debut for NJ/NY Gotham FC in a match that was part of the NWSL x LIGA MX Femenil Summer Cup, a tournament for teams from the US and Mexico. Whitham, whose birthday was the day before the game, is the youngest athlete ever to play for a top US soccer league. She entered the match in the 80th minute of her team's 1-0 win over the Washington Spirit.



Dylan Cease

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

San Diego Padres pitcher Dylan Cease threw a no-hitter in a 3-0 win against the Washington Nationals on July 25.

It was his first no-hitter and the second one in Padres history. It was also the second no-hitter in Major League Baseball so far this season. In the game, Cease threw a career-high 114 pitches and struck out nine batters. The Padres are in second place in the National League West division behind the Los Angeles Dodgers.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Amateur Athletic Union was founded in 1888.



Competitors at the AAU Junior Olympics



Junior Olympics competition begins

On July 27, the 2024 AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Junior Olympics began in Greensboro, North Carolina. The annual competition, which ends on August 3, is the largest national multi-sport event for youth in the US. This year, it will feature nearly 13,000 athletes from 10 sports that include track and field, karate, swimming, baton twirling, and sport stacking (also known as cup stacking). Eligible participants can range in age from 6 to 22, depending on the sport.

The first AAU Junior Olympics were held in Washington, DC, in 1967. Over the years, the event has taken place in 30 different cities across 19 US states. For many track and field athletes, the AAU Junior Olympics are a stepping stone to the Olympic Games. This year, 46 athletes competing at the Paris Olympics previously

competed in the Junior Olympics, including Team USA track star Sha'Carri Richardson, currently the fastest woman in the world.

The competition began with track and field events, which were held at Truist Stadium at North Carolina A&T State University. One standout was RJ Destremps, age 11, from Tampa, Florida. He set a new AAU record in the 3,000-meter race on July 29, finishing in 9:45.82, nearly three seconds faster than the prior record.

Another athlete with a big victory on the track was Lily Leblanc, age 13, of Wichita Falls, Texas. On July 27, she won the pentathlon, which is made up of an 800-meter run, 100-meter hurdles race, high jump, long jump, and shot put. Leblanc, a pentathlon champion last year, scored nearly 300 more points than her next closest competitor.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Katie Kutz

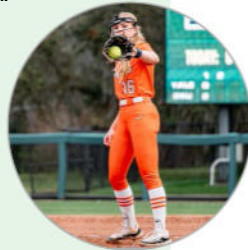
AGE: 19 SPORT: SOFTBALL

TEAM: OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Young talent I started playing T-ball when I was 3 or 4. Once I got to be 6 or 7, I joined a softball league. I realized I had some natural potential, like being able to throw hard and hit hard. I started pitching when I was about 7.

Role model When I was younger, I looked up to Team USA pitcher Jennie Finch.

Staying strong I'm also a bodybuilder, and I firmly believe it helps me with softball. It helps with injury prevention, the explosiveness, the muscular endurance—all of that. I also believe it helps me mentally because it gives me something to think about other than softball. But it's a tough lifestyle and not for everybody. Softball practices take up 20 hours a week, and I spend maybe 10 hours a week in the weight room for bodybuilding. It's tiring, but I love to do it.



Mound moments When I pitch, my expression and body language never change. If the pitcher is noticeably nervous, it can affect the entire team. In my head, I tell myself, "I'm going to hit my spot, I'm going to execute this pitch, I trust my stuff."

Moving on It's a lot easier to get over a loss if you realize that a bad inning, a bad pitch, even a bad outing doesn't define who you are as a person.

Future plan My coach, teammates, and I want to win a College Softball World Series.

Wise words Sports have mini lessons we can carry over into the rest of our lives. One thing I've learned is to be adaptable. My high school coach used to say, "She who adapts, wins."



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Ryan Breiner**

Team: **Pratt Recreation Baseball Dingers**

"Coach Ryan is great because he cares for all his players and makes them feel like they belong. He lets everyone have playing time and listens to players and what position they want to play. I also love that no matter what he does, it's good for the team, and he makes sure we always have fun no matter what happens. He is also my dad, which is another reason I really like him as a coach. He's the best one I've ever had!" Will, 9, Kansas



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment



WOW!

The book *Harold and the Purple Crayon* has been translated into at least 14 languages.

Harold and the Purple Crayon

Movie brings Harold to life

In the new film *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, a famous children's book character grows up and travels to the real world.

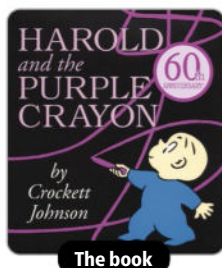
The children's picture book *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, which was written and illustrated by Crockett Johnson, is a tale about an imaginative boy that has been popular with families since it was first published in 1955. Harold's story has been brought to life in a funny new big-screen adventure now playing in theaters.

The film version of *Harold and the Purple Crayon* mixes animation and live-action and begins in the illustrated universe of the book. An unseen narrator describes how Harold uses his crayon to draw

anything he wants and create his own world. The film differs from the book because audiences see Harold become an adult. When he stops hearing the narrator's voice one day, he heads to the real world to look for the man who had been telling his story. His friends, an illustrated moose and porcupine, go after him and end up in human form. As Harold searches for the narrator, he gets to know a boy, Mel, and his mom, Terri, and brings his magic to their life. As the same time, Harold attracts the attention of a local librarian who wants to steal the special crayon for his own purposes.

Harold, who is goofy, joyful, and innocent, is amazed by the real world. He is played by Zachary Levi, star of the *Shazam!* superhero films. Levi told *The Week Junior*, "I have always kind of been a big child who never fully grew up, so tapping into that inner child in me has been a lot of fun."

Harold is driven by his belief in the power of imagination, and he draws his way out of tricky situations. He even helps Mel deal with bullies at school and strengthen his relationship with his mother. Levi hopes the story inspires audiences with its overall message. "Do not stifle your creativity or imagination," he said. "Lean into it, encourage it, and foster it."



The book

3 facts about the author

Background

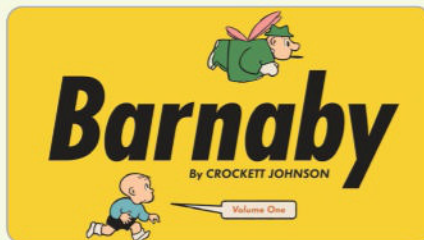
Crockett Johnson (born David Johnson Leisk) lived from 1906 to 1975. He worked with his wife, Ruth Krauss, on four books, including *The Carrot Seed* and *How to Make an Earthquake*.



Johnson in the 1950s

Comic strip

Johnson created and wrote the popular comic strip *Barnaby*, which ran from 1942 to 1952 and 1960 to 1962. Blending humor and social commentary, it featured the adventures of young Barnaby Baxter and his fairy godfather, Mr. O'Malley.



Later projects

Between 1965 and 1975, Johnson produced more than 100 colorful paintings that explored mathematics and mathematical physics. The National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, has 80 of them.

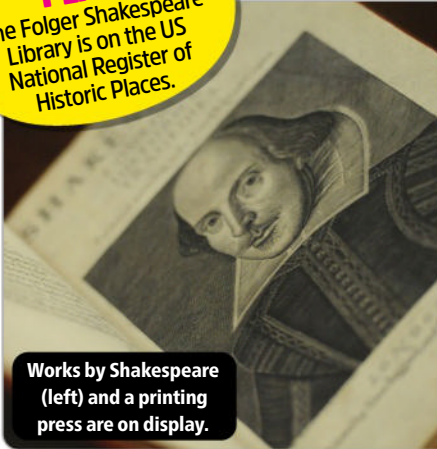


Johnson's Mystic Hexagon



FAMOUS PLACE

The Folger Shakespeare Library is on the US National Register of Historic Places.



Works by Shakespeare (left) and a printing press are on display.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



The Big Bakeover (CW) Fridays at 8 p.m. ET

Baking expert and *The Great British Bake Off* winner Nancy Birtwhistle helps struggling US bakeries revamp recipes and renovate spaces in this reality series. People she works with include a donut maker saving his family business and a couple modernizing their 45-year-old shop.

A special library reopens

Four years after closing for renovations, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is welcoming visitors again. The Folger, which first opened in 1932, has the world's largest collection of works by William Shakespeare (1564–1616), one of the most famous playwrights of all time.

Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays and more than 150 poems. His works have inspired stories such as *The Lion King*, which has similarities to *Hamlet*, *Henry IV Part 1*, and *Henry IV Part 2*. The Folger's director of education, Peggy O'Brien, told *The Week Junior* that the library is not "a shrine" but a place to make discoveries about Shakespeare and decide how he fits into the world today.

Some items on display have never been exhibited publicly before, including 82 copies of Shakespeare's First Folio (on the left on the photo

above), a book from 1623 with 36 of his plays. "Every single copy is different because there were mistakes made in the printing house," O'Brien said. The Folger has a printing press (above right) like the one used to make the First Folio and an activity that lets visitors get a feel for using it. In another area, they can create conversations with compliments, insults, and other types of lines from Shakespeare.

From now until January 5, the Folger has a special exhibition, *Imprints in Time*, which showcases 52 rare items, including an Egyptian Book of the Dead from 100 BCE, a printed flight plan from the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon, and a first-edition copy of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* from 1900.

O'Brien hopes visitors leave the Folger with knowledge they didn't have before. "Surprise," she said, "is a wonderful teacher."

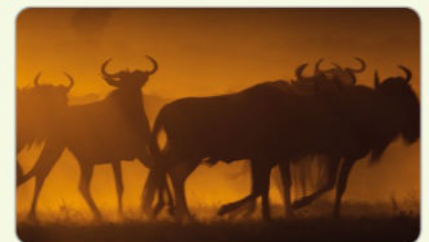


The Folger Shakespeare Library



The Dragon Prince: Mystery of Aaravos (Netflix)

It's time for season six of this popular series set in a world where humans are at war with magical creatures. Follow as a prince, his half-brother, and an elf seek a way out of their enemy's prison and continue their mission to restore peace.



Secret World of Sound (Netflix)

In this documentary series, world-famous naturalist Sir David Attenborough explores rare sounds in nature using cutting-edge technology. You'll see behaviors such as garden eels hiding from a noisy bottlenose dolphin, and a bee using its buzz vibrations to open a flower.



READER RECOMMENDS



The Princess Diaries G (Disney+)

"This family comedy is about a girl named Mia Thermopolis who, at the beginning of the movie, is insecure because she is not at all popular. When she finds out she belongs to the royal family of a country called Genovia, everything changes. Because she now has royal duties, Mia ends up under a lot of pressure, and when everyone at school finds out about her new role, she becomes the subject of a lot of gossip. She finds it hard to take and doesn't think the whole royalty thing is so great. Mia struggles, but in the end, she takes bold leaps with grace." Josie, 10, Oregon

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Gilmore Car Museum, located in Michigan, is the largest auto museum in North America.



New twist on an arcade classic

NeoSprint is a new racing arcade game. It was recently released for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation systems, Xbox platforms, and PC.

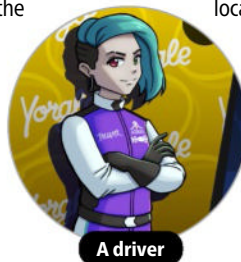
The game is a remake of a racer that was part of an arcade series made by Atari. The first game in that series, Sprint 2, was released in US arcades in 1976. To play, gamers controlled their little pixel cars by using plastic steering wheels. Atari made several sequels, but NeoSprint is the first new game in the series in 35 years.

NeoSprint combines some of the old game's look and features with modern elements. Like the originals, it shows the racetrack using a top-down camera that allows all racers to watch and control their car from one screen. That angle makes it very different from the split screens found in some of today's popular racing games, such as

Mario Kart. NeoSprint also has a close-up angle that kicks in once gamers start playing on the bigger tracks.

The game has some very retro graphics, with 8-bit cars zipping around race tracks and piling up around tight corners. Close-up views, however, offer better and more detailed graphics. The game's tracks are set in locations such as beaches, parks, and fairgrounds, as well as in a neon city, which is especially eye-catching.

NeoSprint can handle up to eight racers at a time. Each vehicle is customizable and has its own strengths and weaknesses. The game has a track builder that allows you to design your own grand prix course, too. You can create classic oval race tracks, wild zigzagging courses, and elevated stunt tracks to make the action even more entertaining.



CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

NASA STEM

youtube.com/@NASASTEM

The US space agency has filled the channel with videos to engage and inspire viewers. The content includes behind-the-scenes looks at life as an exploration geologist or astronaut fitness trainer, fun STEM activities, and a lesson on how to tell a star from a planet.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK



THE UNEXPLAINABLE DISAPPEARANCE OF MARS PATEL

Major podcast platforms

Follow the fictional story of 11-year-old Mars Patel and his friends JP, Toothpick, and Caddie. When two of their friends mysteriously go missing, the kids set out to find them. There are three seasons of the award-winning adventure.



GAME OF THE WEEK

SPLASH SKATE & MUSIC

Roblox

This experience combines skateboarding and music-making. As a DJ, you'll use beats, melodies, and various sounds to craft songs. As a skater, you can earn points as you showcase your moves on three different levels—and try to avoid a green zombie.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

With Just One Wing

By Brenda Woods

(Nancy Paulsen Books)

Coop climbs a tree in his grandparents' backyard to get a closer look at the pretty eggs in a mockingbird's nest. But the protective birds swarm Coop and he falls from the tree. He breaks his arm, ending his plans to play basketball all summer. As Coop recovers, he and his friend Zandi watch the little birds that have hatched from the eggs. They notice that one isn't flying because it has only one wing. At Coop's urging, his grandfather removes the one-winged bird from the nest to keep it safe. Coop names the bird Hop and cares for it with his grandparents' help. One day, Zandi accidentally lets Hop get out of its cage and the baby bird gets hurt. A veterinarian urges Coop's grandfather to bring Hop to a sanctuary where he'll be around other injured birds who can't survive in the wild. Coop has to make a tough decision about whether he'll give up Hop. The experience with Hop helps Coop understand what his birth mother may have faced when she gave him up for adoption. The author, a Coretta Scott King Honor winner, tells this heartwarming story in less than 175 pages.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Brenda Woods

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

Can you relate to Coop?

Yes, I faced issues of parental abandonment. I lived in a foster home and nearly ended up in an orphanage before being reunited with my mom.

Describe Coop and Zandi's friendship.

Their friendship is based on their love for Hop, which grows into an interest in birds.

What is the book's theme?

The main theme is that deciding to let go of someone

or something you love can be really difficult, but it ultimately may be for the best.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

Lots of things! When I used a microscope, I wanted to be a microbiologist. When I got my first camera, I wanted to be a photographer.

What do you enjoy about writing for this age group?

Mostly, I love writing for young people who are open to life's possibilities.



4 books that are the first of a new series

These page-turners introduce exciting characters in a variety of genres.



The Magic Paintbrush

By Kat Zhang and Eric Darnell, illustrated by Phoebe Zhong

(Crown Books for Young Readers)

An ancient magical paintbrush makes drawings come to life in this fantasy. When Amy finds the paintbrush, she draws a creature that takes her on an international adventure. This story includes Chinese folklore. Ages 8–12



Max in the House of Spies

By Adam Gidwitz

(Dutton Books for Young Readers)

A blend of historical fiction and fantasy, this first book in the Operation Kinderspion series is set during World War II. Max, a Jewish boy living in Germany, is sent to London for his safety, accompanied by two magical beings. Will he be able to convince the British to make him a spy? Ages 8–12



Sky & Ty: Howdy, Partner!

By Steve Breen

(Pixel+Ink)

A cowgirl and her dinosaur partner go on adventures delivering important packages in this new graphic novel series. The story incorporates a lot of humor and includes themes of friendship and teamwork. Its vocabulary guide "Learn to Speak Western" is especially fun. Ages 6–9



Super Boba Café

By Nidhi Chanani

(Abrams Fanfare)

Aria's grandmother runs a boba café in San Francisco, and the two are spending the summer together. Through a zany series of events, 13-year-old Aria realizes that her grandmother has a big secret, which involves a boba-loving monster. This first story of a graphic novel series is brimming with charm. Ages 8–12



READER RECOMMENDS



Seekers of the Wild Realm By Alexandra Ott

"This book is about a girl named Bryn, who lives on an island where half of it is an ordinary seaside village and the other half is a magical Realm with fantastical creatures. However, only five people are allowed to enter the Realm, and Bryn dreams of becoming one of them. This is a suspenseful, heart-lifting tale that proves that girls can do anything they set their mind to." Magnus, 9, Florida

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was one of the first cities in North America to be designed in a grid pattern with numbered streets.

Be a better navigator

Improve your sense of direction—and avoid getting lost—with these steps.

Navigation skills are what you use to know how to get from one destination to another. You may have also heard these skills described as a “sense of direction.” Even with modern tools like GPS and Google Maps, it’s still useful to have basic navigation skills. You may not always have a digital map or wifi, and strengthening these skills can also increase your confidence that you’ll be able to navigate new places. Here’s how to get started.

Put away the device

You can start building navigation skills with a route you already know well, such as your walk or bike ride to a park. With an adult, take a slightly different path to get there. Pay attention to visual cues along the way. Without GPS, use the clues to find your way back to your starting point.

Look for landmarks

Local landmarks, like architecture and landscapes, can help you determine what direction you’re facing. With an adult’s supervision, step out in your local neighborhood or town and look for the landmarks near your home. For example, do you see hills or mountains in the distance? Do you see a tall building? A highway? Ask a trusted adult if the landmark is north, south, east, or west of

where you’re standing. Practice identifying landmarks when you visit new towns and cities together. For example, pinpoint a landmark building to determine whether you’re heading north, south, east, or west.

Know the street patterns

Many cities have streets arranged in a grid, which is a network of intersecting parallel lines. These cities include Chicago, Denver, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. Their streets follow a pattern of north to south and east to west. Notice how the streets in a grid may be named according to a theme, like numbers or US presidents. Suburban streets may also have a pattern, like being named for US states.

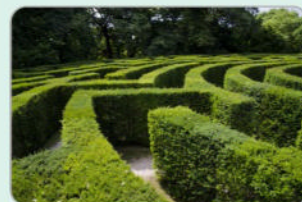
Get a little creative

Another way to boost your navigation skills is to use creative stories to know where you are. To remember an intersection like Prince and Elizabeth streets, you might remember it this way: “A prince met Elizabeth.” You can also connect details to street names, like Main Street is where the main stores in town are or Lakeside Drive is on the water. You’ll build a mental map and feel more confident navigating your surroundings.



Commit names to memory.

Master a maze



Mazes are fun to explore and designed to be challenging to escape. Here are a few tips on finding your way out of most simple mazes.

Follow the wall. Put your hand on the wall of the maze and maintain contact as you walk through it. You will eventually find your way out.

Always turn right. In most mazes, research shows, the “turn-right rule” works: Keep turning right, and you will ultimately get to the exit.

Ask for help. There will be staff members in or around the maze. If you’re not sure which way to go, it’s OK to ask!



THAT'S NOT ALL!

To find out more, see our feature about chocolate chip cookies on page 12!



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

Bake up a staff favorite cookie recipe

During *The Week Junior* staff meetings, senior editor Alisa sometimes treats the editorial team to chocolate chip cookies made from her own custom recipe. To celebrate National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day on August 4, she is sharing her recipe with our readers!

Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 large egg yolk, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon molasses
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

1. Whisk together the flour, salt, and baking soda in a medium bowl. Set aside.
2. Stirring by hand with a fork, cream the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Add the eggs and egg yolk one at a time, scraping down the sides of the bowl after each addition. Add the molasses and vanilla and mix well. (The combination might look slightly curdled at this stage—this is fine.)
3. Add flour mixture in two additions, mixing until just combined. Stir in chocolate chips. Cover the bowl and refrigerate overnight. (See more of Alisa's tips below.)
4. When you're ready to bake, position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven, then preheat it to 350° F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Use an ice cream scoop to form ping-pong-ball-size balls of dough and place them 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets.
5. Bake 9 to 10 minutes, rotating pans halfway through baking, until the cookies are golden around the edges but still look slightly doughy in the center. Let cool on the baking sheets for at least 2 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes about 42 cookies.

ALISA'S TIPS FOR MAKING A PERFECT BATCH

A fan of baking since age 12, Alisa has made her chocolate chip cookies more than 50 times and perfected the recipe along the way.

She offers these tips for extra-delicious cookies.

Bring cold ingredients to room temperature. For best results, take butter and eggs out of the refrigerator one to two hours before you start.

Chill dough longer. Alisa likes to make hers three days ahead of time—if she can wait that long!

Mix it up. Try making this recipe with other candies.

Alisa has used M&M's, white chocolate chips, and chopped peanut butter cups.

Keep dough on hand. You can freeze baking sheets of uncooked cookie dough balls until firm, then transfer to a zip top bag and store them in the freezer. This way, says Alisa, "you can make cookies anytime the mood strikes!"



Alisa and her cookies



Puzzles



Keyword crossword

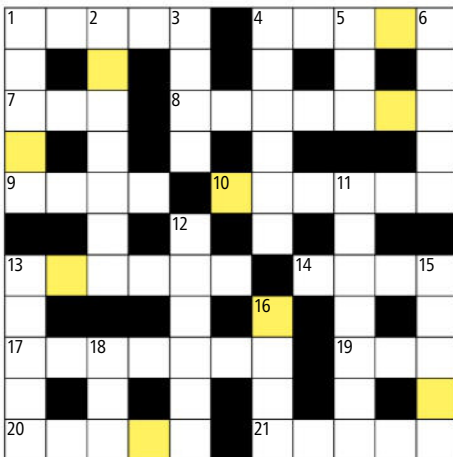
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- 1 Host city for the 2024 Summer Olympics
- 4 Like a towel brought home from the beach
- 7 Container for soup or baked beans
- 8 A gymnast must keep this while on the beam
- 9 Do the backstroke or the butterfly
- 10 Person whose fame and accomplishments will live on, like Simone Biles or Michael Phelps
- 13 The Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe, for example (if you're visiting the answer to 1-Across)
- 14 Not favoring one side over another
- 17 Every Olympic contender
- 19 This number once represented a "perfect" Olympic gymnastics performance
- 20 It's worn by Alice in Wonderland or Dorothy in Oz
- 21 Marathons, for example

DOWN

- 1 Fills luggage before traveling
- 2 Action for political candidates and sprinters
- 3 Vehicles beneath the water's surface
- 4 Medal between gold and bronze
- 5 Type of religious woman often shown wearing black and white
- 6 Word on a triangular yellow highway sign
- 11 Stretchy material that keeps socks up
- 12 Birthplace of the ancient Olympics (and host city again in 1896 and 2004)
- 13 Platform where the three Olympic medalists stand
- 15 Symbols on the Olympic flag
- 16 Close by
- 18 Long-handled item in a garden shed



Keyword question: At the 1928 Summer Olympics, Bobby Pearce won the gold medal for a rowing event despite intentionally slowing down at one point to avoid hitting what?



CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of Summer Olympic sports, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded W. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

J H N D Y B F G V C

X N J C H Y B F B

X H C K J F G V Q

J H G N J E F B V

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

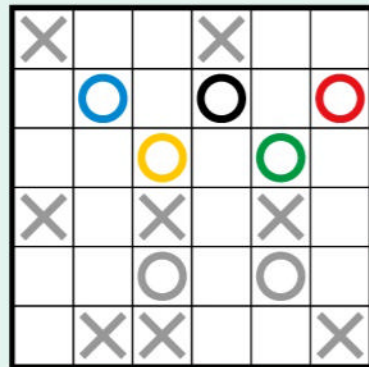
THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

AGE RUSH BRONZE JOHN GOLD
SILVER TOWN LONG ARTIFACTS

Hit or miss

Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's together in a row, column, or diagonal. (Ignore the colors while you solve.) Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of chocolate chip cookies appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





They have stretchy genes.



A fantastically flexible family

A married pair of contortionists (performers with flexible bodies) say they have passed on their super skills to their children. Ikhertsetseg Bayarsaikhan and her husband, Bud Tumurbaatar, have been professional contortionists for many years and say their children "have both been flexible from birth." Bayarsaikhan added that the family practices together and "it's a lot easier to learn when you start young." The family, who originally lived in Mongolia but now live in the US, say they might put on a show together in the future.

How did the chicken cross the record? By pecking the number 5.



One smart chicken's success

Emily Carrington, a veterinarian in Canada, trained a group of chickens to identify letters, numbers, and colors using refrigerator magnets. After more than a year of work, the birds competed to earn a Guinness World Records title. One chicken, named Lacy, correctly pecked six symbols: the letters A, O, J, and A again; the number 5; and the color yellow. Guinness created a new record category for Lacy: most identifications by a chicken in one minute. Carrington said she plans to celebrate by giving the chickens "a cupcake with icing on it."

Real or fake?

To have and to heel?



An un-fur-gettable wedding day

A white gown, a stylish suit, and a cake to drool over as a couple promises to be together fur-ever: It's just like any other lavish wedding ceremony—except for the species of the bride and groom. In China, pet owners have been organizing dog weddings, complete with custom-made outfits, dog-friendly wedding cakes, and photographers. In July, for example, golden retrievers Bree and Bond got married in front of their closest canine friends. The dogs made vows to always play and share treats with each other. Owner Rye Ling said, "People have weddings. Why can't dogs?" Is this a true story, or do you object?*

*Really? As pets have become more popular in China, some owners want to spend lots of money celebrating their animal companions. Yang Tao, whose pet bakery made a cake for Bree and Bond, said, "I think there will be more and more dog weddings."



Lawn time, no see!

Secret society's crafty good deed

A mini mystery unfolded in Kelowna, Canada, after resident Kelly Blair's beloved, weather-worn lawn gnomes went missing. He thought thieves had taken them, but a few weeks later a woman showed up at his door carrying an envelope from the "Gnome Restoration Society." She gave back the gnomes, which had been cleaned, painted, and restored to perfect condition. When Blair thanked her for the generous act, she said she was only a messenger for the anonymous restorers. "The gnomes are home," said Blair. "It totally made my day."



Your turn

Editor's note



The Summer Olympics are in full swing, and the competition has been so exciting (p18)! I am enjoying the action in Paris and elsewhere (surfing is taking place in Tahiti!), and I also appreciate the chance to learn about the athletes' personal lives and any challenges they overcame to be there. *The Week Junior's* coverage of the Games will continue in Issues 226 and 227. Another highlight for me this week was seeing the vacation photos you sent us. (A selection is shown here.) You've visited so many interesting places that we've featured in previous issues of *The Week Junior*—and I love that you bring the magazine with you so you can take a photo while you're there! Keep the submissions coming, whether they're travel photos, shots of you making our recipes and crafts, or any other images you'd like to send to hello@theweekjunior.com. We love hearing from you!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Common Threads

This organization's mission is to help people cook and eat nutritious food. It offers in-person and online cooking classes for children and adults and teaches them how to make healthy snacks and meals. It also runs a high school mentorship program for students interested in pursuing a career in nutrition. Since its founding 20 years ago, it has reached more than 600,000 people. Find out more at commonthreads.org.



YOUR SPECTACULAR VACATION PHOTOS



◀ "I traveled to Kenya and saw the 'big five' animals in the Masai Mara National Reserve."

Aayush, 11,
New Jersey

▼ "I visited the Intrepid Museum in New York City and saw the Concorde aircraft featured in *The Week Junior*! I also have the Lego model of it!"

Jacob, 13, Connecticut



▲ "We both love *The Week Junior*, so we took it with us on our trip to the Columbia Icefield in Canada."

Ivy, 9, and Michael, 8, California

▼ "I visited the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston after reading about it in *The Week Junior*." Olivia, 12, Virginia



▲ "Here's me in Paris with *The Week Junior* just prior to the 2024 Summer Olympics." Etta, 11, Hawaii

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn

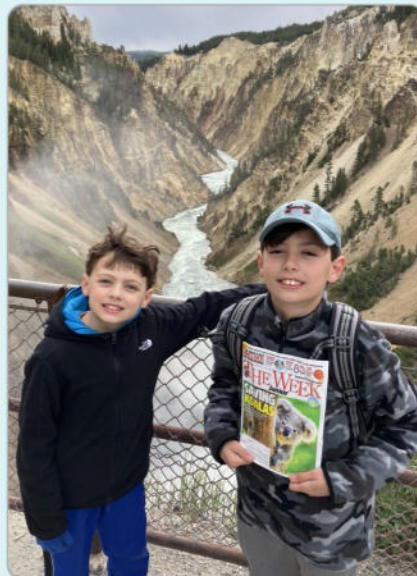


Thank you to everyone who sent us photos of themselves taking a trip this summer! If you have a photo of yourself holding *The Week Junior* anywhere in the US or the world, we'd love to see it. Have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's happening in the photo.



▲ "I enjoyed taking my issue of *The Week Junior* to the Titanic Belfast museum in Northern Ireland!" **Mason, 10, Missouri**

▼ "We brought along *The Week Junior* on our recent trip to London!"
Henry, 12, and Oliver, 12, Massachusetts



▲ "We love to take *The Week Junior* magazine everywhere we go, even to Yellowstone National Park."
Grayson, 11, and Alex, 8, Connecticut



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Fink**

School: **University School of Nashville**

"Mrs. Fink is the best teacher ever. She's the sweetest, kindest, most loving person on the planet. You feel a sense of safety when you're around Mrs. Fink. She's super understanding and easy to talk to. Her sense of humor is also amazing. I was lucky to be in her advisory this year, and so far it has been a blast! Mrs. Fink shows no judgment toward anyone. She is the most positive person ever! She is the reason I love middle school so much."

Lauren, 11, Tennessee

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

P	A	R	I	S	S	A	N	D	Y
A	U	I	U	I	I	I	I	I	I
C	A	N	B	A	L	A	N	C	E
K	A	N	S	V	L	E	N	D	
S	W	I	M	L	E	G	E	N	D
N	A	R	R	L					
S	I	G	H	T	S	F	A	I	R
T	H	N	S	I					
A	T	H	L	E	T	E	T	E	N
N	O	N	A	I	G				
D	R	E	S	S	R	A	C	E	S

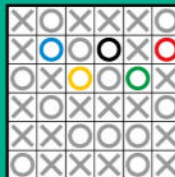
Keyword answer: ducklings

Code cracker

trampoline
water polo
wrestling
triathlon

Three for all

Gold Rush town
Long John Silver
Bronze Age artifacts



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 c) Ruth Wakefield 2 b) Hawaii 3 True 4 Hop 5 b) 8 6 Juneteenth 7 False. Hyenas adapt to people better. 8 a) 2030 9 c) Greece 10 b) Crockett Johnson 11 Baseball cards 12 True 13 a) Frozen II 14 False. There are 82 copies on display. 15 Gnome Restoration Society

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Who is credited with creating the chocolate chip cookie?

- a) Wally Amos b) Betty Crocker
c) Ruth Wakefield

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 Young climate activists recently reached a legal settlement with which US state?

- a) California b) Hawaii c) Washington

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? The first AAU Junior Olympics were held in Washington, DC.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In the book *With Just One Wing*, what name does Coop give to the one-winged bird that doesn't fly?

5 The new arcade racing game NeoSprint can handle up to how many racers at a time?

- a) 4 b) 8 c) 12

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 Sheila Jackson Lee sponsored legislation to get which federal holiday established?

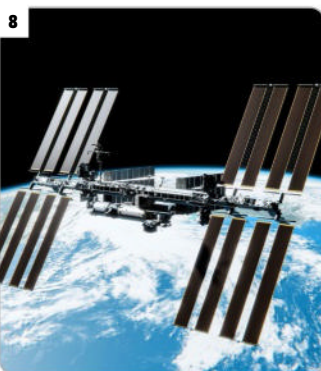
7 True or false? A recent study found that leopards adapt to people better than hyenas do.

True ☐ False ☐

8 The International Space Station is set to be removed from orbit in what year?

- a) 2030 b) 2032 c) 2034

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



9 Which country traditionally goes first in the Parade of Nations at the Olympics opening ceremony?

- a) France b) US c) Greece

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 Who wrote and illustrated the book that the new film *Harold and the Purple Crayon* is based on?

- a) Harper Lee b) Crockett Johnson
c) Jerry Pinkney

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 Micah Johnson is a former athlete who became an artist and recently designed a special series of what?

12 True or false? A recent study found that people who use a lot of facial expressions are seen as being more likable.

True ☐ False ☐

13 *Inside Out 2* broke which movie's record as the highest-grossing animated film ever?

- a) *Frozen II* b) *Incredibles 2* c) *Toy Story 4*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? There are 28 copies of William Shakespeare's First Folio on display at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

True ☐ False ☐

15 Who took credit for returning Kelly Blair's cleaned, painted, and restored garden gnomes?

THE WEEK Junior

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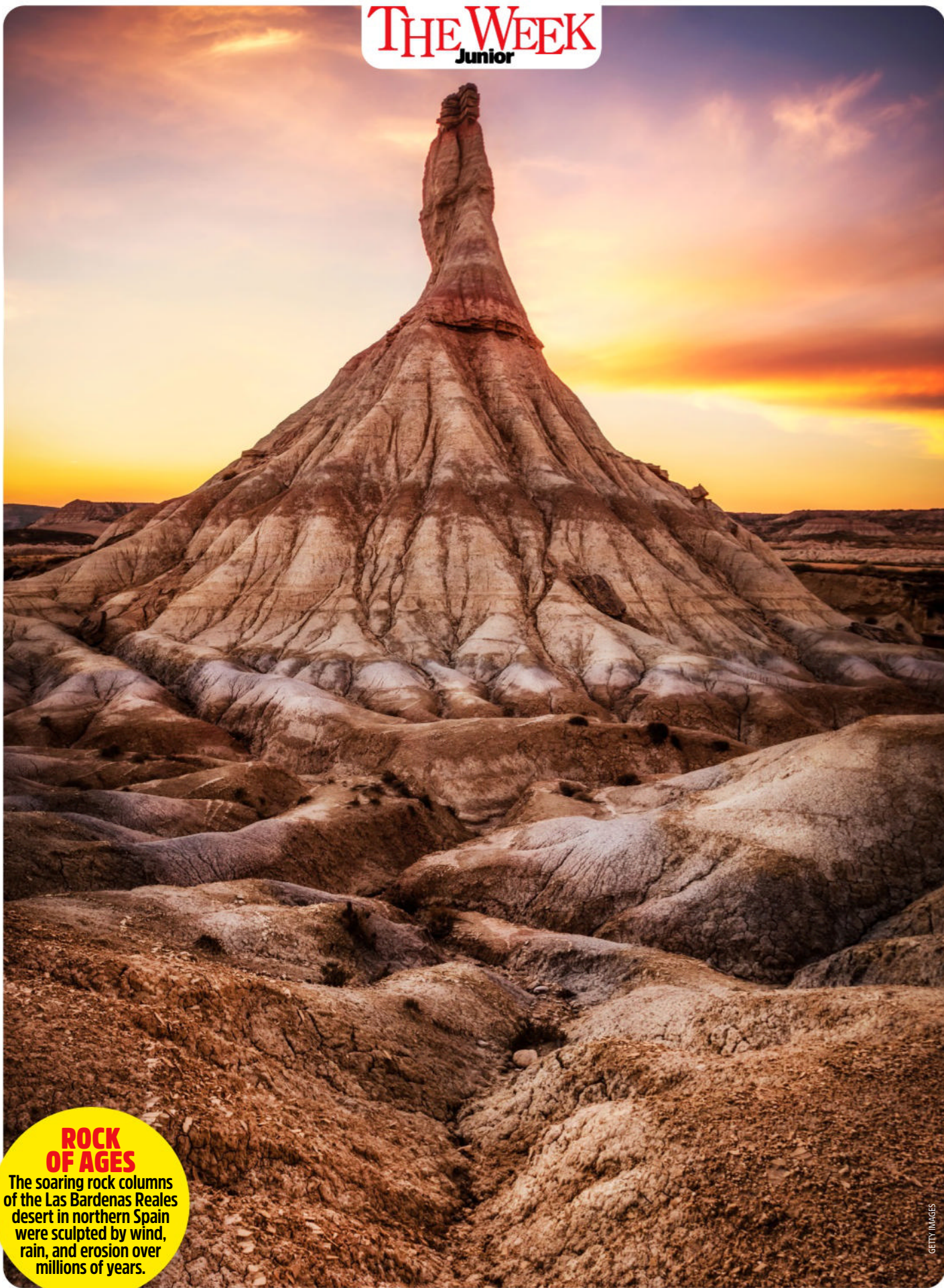
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**ROCK
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The soaring rock columns of the Las Bardenas Reales desert in northern Spain were sculpted by wind, rain, and erosion over millions of years.